

**Minutes of the 14th Annual Meeting
North Central Association
First Baptist Church, Minot, ND
September 17, 2011**

The day began at 9:00 am with the men's and women's meetings. Larry Burd, Atlantic Association Regional Minister, and Ruby Franklin, spoke to their respective groups.

A time of praise and worship was led at 10:10 am by Josh Huseby, Associate Pastor of Worship Arts, First Baptist Church in Minot.

Larry Burd, spoke on the topic of "Wake Up Sleeping Church" based on Romans 13:11-14.

The 14th Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 11: 35 am by Moderator David Lake. Sixty-seven voting members registered for the meeting.

Appointments:

Parliamentarian – Darwin Stahl

Tellers – Loren Franchuk, Larry Moser

Moderator Lake extended a warm welcome to visitors --- Representatives of the Baptist Home, Crystal Springs Camp, Taylor University, and Sioux Falls Seminary

Motion made/seconded/approved to accept minutes of 2010 meeting as presented in the program packet.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Kaylene Reddig, Treasurer, presented the financial report.

An auditor's report of the treasurer's books was conducted in March of 2011 by Claude Sem and Clyde Thorne; the books were found to be accurate and complete.

Motion made/seconded to accept the treasurer's report as presented in the meeting packet.

Motion approved.

2011 Proposed Budget:

Association Meeting Expenses	\$2,500
Office/Committee Expenses	\$1,000
General Council Representative	\$1,000
Regional Minister (3% increase)	<u>\$66,458</u>
TOTAL =	\$70,958

Association meeting expenses, office/committee expenses, and general council representative budget items for the 2011 budget continued as presented for the 2010 budget. The primary budget change up for discussion was a 3% increase to the regional minister's salary.

Motion made/seconded/approved to approve the 2012 Proposed Budget, as presented.

Discussion:

Gallagher (Martin): Shared that River City Church (Fargo) has identified a portion of their proposed budget to include monies designated for church planting and asked whether perhaps the NCA should also adopt this practice; Kaylene R. replied that the \$147,000 currently in the CEIF (Church Extension Investors Fund) certificates is primarily dedicated for the purpose of church planting.

Swann (Linton) – If the monies are intended for ministry uses, why are the monies in a CD rather than a savings account with easier access and without penalty? Phyl Putz responded on behalf of the Executive Committee that it is likely tradition, and that the penalty is very small. Swann continued with his second question: Attendance in NCA churches has seen a 2% decrease; social security is static; we are in a time of economic uncertainty... what is the justification for a 3% increase for the regional minister? Moderator Lake responded by explaining the Executive Committee's attempt to coordinate the regional minister budget with the Manitoba Association; we pay 60%, they pay 40%. They are proposing 3%+ to their group in October.

Gallagher (Martin): Commented that pastors and churches benefit greatly from the input from Phyl Putz. Gas prices are such that the extensive travel is a necessary cost.

Stork (Century Baptist): NAB Conference personnel has been reduced resulting in increased responsibilities of regional ministers (a trend that is expected to continue) and merits the NCA churches' support.

Utecht (Beulah Baptist) further voiced support for the proposed budget.

Motion made/seconded to approve the proposed budget. Motion approved.

Stork (Century Baptist): Spoke to support NCA churches' efforts toward church renewal, vision setting, and church planting.

2012 Meeting Site:

The NCA Executive Committee recommends the 2012 meeting at Hillside Baptist Church in Dickinson, ND. The date is yet to be determined. Motion made/seconded/ approved to accept the invitation of Hillside Baptist Church and conduct the NCA Annual Meeting of 2012 in Dickinson, ND.

Membership was encouraged to make reservations for hotel accommodations early for the 2012 NCA meeting; a month in advance is recommended.

Nominating Committee:

Vice-moderator and Committee Chair, James Schnabel was unable to attend the meeting. David Lake read the Nominating Committee report:

Two positions are open – Moderator, and Vice Moderator; both are 2-year terms.

The Nominating Committee submits the names of James Schnabel for Moderator and Merle Hoots as Vice Moderator.

Motion made/seconded/approved to accept the slate of nominations as presented. Terms of office begin immediately following the Annual Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pastoral Sabbatical Proposal

A subcommittee of three persons was charged with development of the document. Members included: David Lake, Wayne Heringer, and Myron Bender. Trinity Opp was also a member of the group prior to his moving out-of-state.

The document was submitted to the NCA Executive Committee who made minor changes prior to presentation to the churches at this time.

Report from James Schnabel, Vice-Moderator and lay leader: The Pastoral Sabbatical Guideline Proposal describes guidelines only; the proposal is not meant to impose on the authority of the local church; each church is able to make their own decisions; the guidelines can be implemented by small and large churches alike, with appropriate planning. Pulpit supply is a concern, especially of smaller churches, but this, too, can be approached creatively and is not an insurmountable barrier.

Motion made/seconded to accept the Pastoral Sabbatical Guidelines.

Discussion:

Swann (Linton) expressed concern regarding both providing full salary and benefits and paying pulpit supply costs. Suggested that perhaps the NCA could create a Sabbatical Fund to assist the smaller churches in this regard. Also expressed concern that requiring a commitment (following the sabbatical) appears to lack spiritual basis.

Wayne Heringer, subcommittee member, responded that the guideline was fashioned after that of Focus on the Family.

John Lynch (Temple Baptist, Elder): spoke in support of the guidelines and the need to support church pastors; he challenged leaders in the local churches to “step up” and lead in the absence of the senior pastor.

Moderator Lake responded for the subcommittee and shared that they had relied heavily on a similar document provided by the Manitoba Baptist Association. The length of the MBA sabbatical was considerably longer, up to 6 months.

Jim Rust (Martin): Will churches be required to abide by the guidelines?

Derry Pool (Linton) Supports the idea of a sabbatical, however is concerned that guidelines will be interpreted by local church members as an obligation.

Moderator Lake: Reiterated that churches will not be required to apply the guidelines; they can be adapted as the local church sees fit.

Gallagher (Martin): Motion made/seconded to amend point #4 to read: Be it resolved that **each** NCA church be encouraged to adopt a policy that a time, **or means**, of sabbatical will be offered to each of their pastoral staff (new wording bolded).

Meeting stopped at 12:30 pm

Al Gaines offered a prayer of thanks for the meetings and meal.

Meeting reconvened at 1:30 pm with a time of worship and praise, followed by a return to the meeting agenda.

Swann (Linton): Requested removal of the phrase “six years” from the #4 statement.

Finger (Napoleon): Requested clarification of the selection of 6 years; Moderator Lake referred back to the definition and rationale as stated in the document.

Motion to accept (Gallagher) amendment is approved by hand vote.

Merle Hoots (Bismarck Baptist): motion made to amend 2a. to include a second sentence --The six years of full-time ministry should not include ministry years while completing seminary education.

Utecht: Does that assume that while working on the degree, you are not also serving a church but not necessarily full time in order to complete the degree?

Jim Black: Point of order, there is no second to the (Hoots) motion.

Motion to amend 2a is seconded.

Wayne Heringer, subcommittee member: Spoke against the amendment; reiterated that these are guidelines only and are left open to permit member churches to develop their own policies.

Motion to amend 2a is defeated by hand vote.

Original motion, including approved amendment, called to vote.

53 – Yay

9 – Nay

Motion is approved.

Gallagher (Martin): Spoke to thank the Executive Committee for initiating this discussion by appointing the subcommittee, as well as thanks to the subcommittee for their work to develop the sabbatical guideline document.

Prayer/Offering: Offering was taken to support flood relief efforts in the Minot area.

Regional Minister Report: Phyl Putz

Full report is in the 2011 Annual Report.

New NCA pastors:

Al Gaines – Crystal Springs Baptist Camp
Allen Finger – Interim pastor, Napoleon
Aron Utecht – Beulah
Jason DuPaul – Youth pastor, Beulah
Jamie Hamblet – Isabel Baptist
Mark McClintock – Associate pastor, Hillside Baptist, Dickinson
Terry Allen – Venturia
John Swann – Linton

Crystal Springs Baptist Camp: Tim & Eliza Brenner

Tim Brenner, Director of Crystal Springs reported having 19 high school and college-age individuals as staff for summer 2011. Theme verse for the summer camp season was Philippians 3:20. The camp is financially healthy; a goal has been set to be debt-free. Al Gaines has been hired as director of resource development.

Full report is available in the 2011 Annual Report.

Taylor University – Dr. David Williams

Dr. Williams reported that they have “retooled” the curriculum and educational delivery models, including satellite centers. Enrollment is increasing, Leadership has proposed to their Board of Directors to bring back a 1-year Christian Training Certificate.

Full report in the 2011 Annual Report.

Sioux Falls Seminary – Randy Tschetter

Pastor Tschetter reported that 42 new students have registered in degree programs. A new emphasis has been established to take theological education outside of the institution, including offering classes in Omaha, Nebraska as of July 21, 2011.

The Seminary has adopted a renewed emphasis on prayer with scheduled daily prayer times instituted campus-wide.

Pastor Tschetter extended thanks to the NCA and asked for continued prayers.

Full report is available in the 2011 Annual Report.

NAB General Council Report: Elton LaBree

LaBree expressed his appreciation for David Lake filling in and attending the Orlando, FL meeting in his absence. The NAB has adopted an emerging theme of “Next” to refer to the next community, next nation, and next generation of leaders.

Full report is available in the 2011 Annual Report.

Northern Plains Leadership Report:

Ken Ruit was not able to attend the meeting. His full report is in 2011 Annual Report.

Baptist Home: Clyde Zimbelman

A video was shown sharing the vision for construction of a new Baptist Home in Bismarck, ND. An 11-acre site has been selected for the new facility which will include 6 neighborhoods, including a short-term rehabilitation neighborhood and a memory-care neighborhood. Most of the rooms will be private, larger than current space, and with improved parking. The new chapel is anticipated to have main floor and balcony accessibility, as well as state-of-the art audio services to enable expanded usage.

Occupancy is projected for late summer of 2013.

Estimated cost: \$25 million

Capital campaign goal is \$500,000.

Full report is available in the 2011 Annual Report.

River City Church Plant: Brett Moser

Phyl Putz reported the church now has two services, and seven missional groups serving in the community.

Prayer needs continue for church leaders and a future of church-planting.

Full report in 2011 Annual Report.

Business Meeting concluded 2:55 pm.

Larry Burd presented on the topic of “United Prayer: The Spark for Revival” based on Acts 4:23-31.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Venturia: 100th Anniversary Celebration, June 21, 2012

Call to Love: concert at Temple Baptist, Jamestown – October 8, 2011.

Resolution of thanks to the First Baptist Church of Minot, ND for serving as host church for the NCA 2011 Annual Meeting. Motion made/seconded. Unanimous approval by applause.

John Swann (Linton): Suggested the need for intentional prayer to determine a vision for the NCA for missions in the oil fields of North Dakota.

Motion made/seconded/approved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sonia Zimmerman, NCA Executive Committee Recorder